in Orissa and the World Bank has provided a soft loan of approximately Rs. 370 crore for DPEP in Rajasthan from July, 2001 to March, 2007.

One of the objectives of the DPEP programme is to reduce the drop-out rate at primary level to less than 10%.

The Mid-day Meal programme contributes *inter-alia*, to retention of children in Government primary schools. There is no external funding for the Mid-day Meal programme.

Consensus on Right to Education Bill

34. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have secured a consensus of all the States towards enacting the Right to Education Bill, 2005 on the lines of the draft legislation circulated by the Centre to all States;

(b) if so, how soon Government expect completion of the process of enactment of the Bill by States; and

(c) whether a funding pattern has been evolved between the Centre and the States to implement the scheme when enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) on the basis of the report of a committee set up by the reconstituted Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to suggest a draft of the legislation envisaged under Article 21A of the Constitution, a draft Right to Education Bill, 2005 was prepared and sent to all State Governments/UTs and Central Ministries for their views. In the meanwhile, the Prime Minister also constituted a small group comprising Minister of Human Resource Development, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman of the PM's Economic Advisory Council to examine, *inter-alia*, the legal, constitutional and financial implications of the Bill. Following the recommendations of the small group and based on further consultations, a draft Model Bill on Right to Education, to be adopted by the States along with the proposals to incentivise the States to adopt the Model Bill was circulated to the State Governments for their comments. The process of consultation with the States has not yet been completed.

(c) No decision has so far been taken in this regard.

Cent per cent FDI in higher education

†35. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating approving cent per cent foreign direct investment in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all laws including reservation would be applicable on the said institutions which are applicable on domestic institutions;

(d) whether Government would reconsider the role of University Grants Commission in the field of higher education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no separate sectoral policy notified for the education sector. By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, foreign direct investment is already allowed on automatic route in the Education Sector.

(c) to (e) A legislative proposal for the regulation of entry and operations, maintenance of quality and prevention of commercialization of education by foreign educational institutes in higher education is currently under consideration of the Government.

India in the UNESCO

36. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Monitoring Report published by UNESCO for 2006 has observed that India has improved its Education Development Index ranking;

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*